

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method for distributing information in a computer network, the method comprising:
 - dividing an electronic file into a plurality of pieces;
 - receiving a request for a file piece from a first client machine;
 - downloading the requested file piece to the first client machine;
 - receiving a request for said file piece from a second client machine; and
 - redirecting the request of the second client machine to the first client machine.
2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - downloading all file pieces to a plurality of client machines, wherein the client machines function as peer-to-peer servers for other client machines requesting said file pieces.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein each peer-to-peer server stores a unique file piece.
4. (Original) The method according to claim 2, further comprising:
 - receiving a request for a file piece stored in a first peer-to-peer server which is no longer connected to the computer network;
 - redirecting said request to a second peer-to-peer server containing a copy of said file piece; and
 - removing the first peer-to-peer server from a list of available peer-to-peer servers.
5. (Original) The method according to claim 2, further comprising:
 - sending a digest for a file piece to each client machine which has received that file piece.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:
receiving a message from a client, wherein the message indicates that a peer-to-peer server has corrupted a file piece;
disconnecting the peer-to-peer server responsible for corrupting said file piece;
and
retransmitting said file piece to said client, wherein the retransmitted file piece is free of any corrupting content.
7. (Original) A method for distributing information in a computer network, the method comprising:
requesting one of a plurality of pieces of an electronic file, wherein the electronic file is stored in a server;
receiving the requested file piece from the server;
receiving a request for said file piece from a client machine, wherein the request is redirected from the server; and
sending said file piece to said client machine.
8. (Currently amended) A method for obtaining distributed information in a computer network, the method comprising:
requesting one of a plurality of pieces of an electronic file, wherein the electronic file is stored in a server;
receiving the requested file piece from a client machine containing a copy of said file piece, the copy of said file piece on the client machine being the result of a previous request for the file piece from the client machine to the server and receipt of the file piece from the server to the client machine.
9. (Original) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system, for distributing information in a computer network, the computer program product comprising:
instructions for dividing an electronic file into a plurality of pieces;
instructions for receiving a request for a file piece from a first client machine;

instructions for downloading the requested file piece to the first client machine;
instructions for receiving a request for said file piece from a second client
machine; and

instructions for redirecting the request of the second client machine to the first
client machine.

10. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 9, further
comprising:

instructions for downloading all file pieces to a plurality of client machines,
wherein the client machines function as peer-to-peer servers for other client machines
requesting said file pieces.

11. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 10, wherein each
peer-to-peer server stores a unique file piece.

12. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 10, further
comprising:

instructions for receiving a request for a file piece stored in a first peer-to-peer
server which is no longer connected to the computer network;

instructions for redirecting said request to a second peer-to-peer server containing
a copy of said file piece; and

instructions for removing the first peer-to-peer server from a list of available peer-
to-peer servers.

13. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 10, further
comprising:

instructions for sending a digest for a file piece to each client machine which has
received that file piece.

14. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 13, further comprising:

instructions for receiving a message from a client, wherein the message indicates that a peer-to-peer server has corrupted a file piece;

instructions for disconnecting the peer-to-peer server responsible for corrupting said file piece; and

instructions for retransmitting said file piece to said client, wherein the retransmitted file piece is free of any corrupting content.

15. (Currently amended) A computer program product for distributing information in a computer network, the ~~method~~ computer program product comprising:

instructions for requesting one of a plurality of pieces of an electronic file, wherein the electronic file is stored in a server;

instructions for receiving the requested file piece from the server;

instructions for receiving a request for said file piece from a client machine, wherein the request is redirected from the server; and

instructions for sending said file piece to said client machine.

16. (Currently amended) A computer program product for obtaining distributed information in a computer network, the ~~method~~ computer program product comprising:

instructions for requesting one of a plurality of pieces of an electronic file, wherein the electronic file is stored in a server;

instructions for receiving the requested file piece from a client machine containing a copy of said file piece.

17. (Original) A system for distributing information in a computer network, the system comprising:

a dividing component which divides an electronic file into a plurality of pieces;

a first receiver which receives a request for a file piece from a first client machine;

a communications component which downloads the requested file piece to the first client machine;

a second receiver which receives a request for said file piece from a second client machine; and

a redirecting component which redirects the request of the second client machine to the first client machine.

18. (Original) A system for distributing information in a computer network, the system comprising:

a first communications component which requests one of a plurality of pieces of an electronic file, wherein the electronic file is stored in a server;

a first receiver which receives the requested file piece from the server;

a second receiver which receives a request for said file piece from a client machine, wherein the request is redirected from the server; and

a second communications component which sends said file piece to said client machine.

19. (Currently amended) A system for obtaining distributed information in a computer network, the system comprising:

a communications component requesting one of a plurality of pieces of an electronic file, wherein the electronic file is stored in a server;

a receiver which receives the requested file piece from a client machine containing a copy of said file piece, the copy of said file piece on the client machine being the result of a previous request for the file piece from the client machine to the server and receipt of the file piece from the server to the client machine.